State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913 PH (517) 373.5932 | FAX (517) 373.5944 www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/brown/

For Immediate Release March 8, 2006

Sen. Brown to read to area students in recognition of 'March is Reading Month'

Contact: Jennifer Riedel

(517) 373-5932

LANSING – State Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township, today announced he will read to elementary school students throughout the 16th Senate District in celebration of "March is Reading Month."

"March is Reading Month' is the perfect opportunity to read to children and help them learn to love reading," Brown said. "Reading is the foundation of learning. If we want to help children attain their hopes and dreams, we must first help them become strong readers."

Beginning Friday, March 10, Brown will read to a pair of fourth-grade classes at Centreville Public Elementary School from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and will then read to two classes at Burr Oak Elementary School between noon and 1 p.m. Brown will wrap up the day by reading to two classes at Pathfinder Elementary School from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Brown will continue the reading celebrations on Monday, March 13 by reading to two classes at Pansophia Elementary School in Coldwater from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The day will conclude with Brown reading to preschoolers at United Methodist Church in Coldwater at 10:45 a.m.

Brown will be reading "So You Want to be President" by Judith St. George. The book is illustrated by artist David Small, a Mendon constituent who lives in Brown's district. The book offers insight on the qualifications and characteristics of United States presidents, from George Washington to Bill Clinton.

"This book provides readers with interesting facts about the real people behind the presidency," Brown said. "I'm glad I have this opportunity to share my love of reading and history with children throughout the 16th Senate District."

Each year, school children throughout Michigan celebrate "March is Reading Month." The purpose is to highlight reading as a fun activity that children and parents can do together, while promoting literacy.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, approximately 40 percent of students across the nation cannot read at a basic level. Learning to read and the promotion of reading needs to start at an early age and continue throughout life.